

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

*Media Office
Democratic Caucus
John Schorg, Director
Statehouse, Room 157
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
1-800-382-9842 or 1-317-232-9621
Fax Number: 1-317-232-9792*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 4, 2005

PELATH: NORTHWEST INDIANA WINS BATTLE; WAR CONTINUES

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Scott Pelath (D-Michigan City) said today that Indiana House Democrats were able to temporarily derail a House effort to strip counties like LaPorte of their riverboat revenues. However, he cautioned that such measures are still alive and well in the Indiana Senate.

"I am grateful that my Democratic colleagues throughout the state agreed not to vote for an onerous bill that's only aim was to punish Northwest Indiana," said Pelath. "At the moment, Indiana House Speaker Brian Bosma (R-Indianapolis) does not seem to have enough votes to pass the bill."

Last week, the House Ways and Means Committee passed language written by State Rep. Jeffrey Espich (R-Uniondale) that would have grabbed over \$12 million in wagering tax revenue from LaPorte County. Pelath described the bill as brazen and shameless.

"It's good to have won a round," Pelath said. "However, we cannot forget that the Indiana Senate continues to include similar revenue robberies in its budget plan. I have no illusions that this fight is over."

Pelath said the climactic event for both this issue and the woeful disparities in the public school funding formula probably will occur in the state budget vote.

"I think they will have a hard time passing a budget if they keep singling out communities and school corporations to bear the burdens," concluded Pelath.

---30---

This news release can be accessed on the Internet at www.IN.gov/H09